



The Ripline

www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Union/BUHABS/

Issue 6

2000/2001

NEWSLETTER OF THE BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Welcome back to the third term of this academic year, the e-word term. Hopefully everyone feels refreshed after their Easter break, and ready for lots of the r-word. This issue should help you avoid work for a further few minutes. There's plenty of news stories, the Presidents report from the AGM in March, a flight review and a few photos from our fifteenth anniversary meal at The Muset. Don't forget that we also usually meet in the pub for lunch on Thursdays. Find us in the White Bear on High Kingsdown between about 1300 and 1400.

Unfortunately the outbreak of Foot and Mouth has continued to put a halt on ballooning. Should the situation change, we will tell you by email. In the mean time, I have drawn up an eclectic list of suggestions of other activities one can partake in for £12.

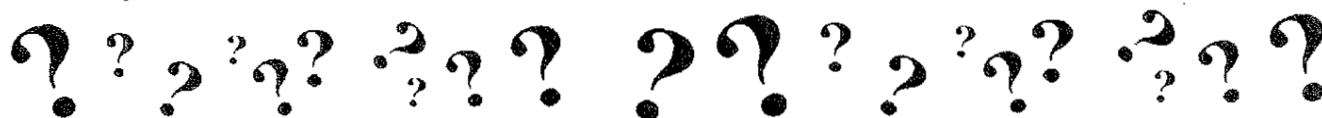
John Burnett



JOLLY JOHN'S JUBILANT QUIZ

**2ND JOINT EXPLORERS CLUB AND BUHABS PUB QUIZ
WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2001 - 8:00 PM - MANDELA BAR, UNION**

Another quiz to challenge your knowledge, only this time your very own Ripline editor will be writing it. Therefore expect some questions on breakfast cereal, The Wurzels and Sci-Fi. Being at the beginning of term there should be plenty of people along so it should be a fun evening. Besides, it will put the revision off for another day...



RELEASE YOUR AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES!

**JOIN BUHABS FOR A GAME OF LASER QUEST
WEDNESDAY 09 MAY 2001 - 6:45 PM - LASER QUEST BROADMEAD**

After a few weeks of revision I expect everyone will have some pent up emotions they want to release. Join us for a few games of Laser Quest and watch the men be macho and the women shoot them. Laser Quest is situated just next to Cafe Blue, near the sail sculpture type thing in Broadmead. Games cost £3.50 and we hope to have one or two. Therefore, don't worry if you are a bit late we can always go in again for a rematch! Look forward to seeing some of you there.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG, PLEASE CONTACT:
JOHN BURNETT - [REDACTED]**

POST ZAPPING DRINKS - THE BERKELEY - 8:30 PM

When everyone has had enough of trying to hit people and missing, we will be going for a few drinks at the Berkeley. This will also be a good opportunity for people to get some food should they wish. Therefore, if you can't make it to Laser Quest, join us for a beverage or three afterwards.

NEWSLINE

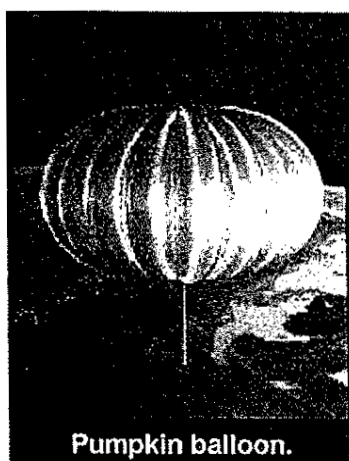
OUT OF DATE BALLOONING NEWS PLAGIARISED HERE FIRST

CAMERON BALLOONS BUILD HUGE INFLATABLE ULTRAMAN FOR JAPANESE

Cameron Balloons, based in Bedminster, has just installed the balloon at Mitsui Greenland theme park in Aaro City, Japan. The cold air inflatable, which is the largest the company has ever made, is based on the popular Japanese character Ultraman. It was made from 3,600 metres of fabric and is supported by a huge reinforced metal skeleton. Ultraman is so heavy engineers had to wait for calm weather before cranes could lift it into place and it requires four large fans to keep it inflated. Hannah Cameron said: 'It was a real challenge. The company wanted the balloon made very quickly and they wanted it to be an exact replica.'



Inflatable Ultraman.



Pumpkin balloon.

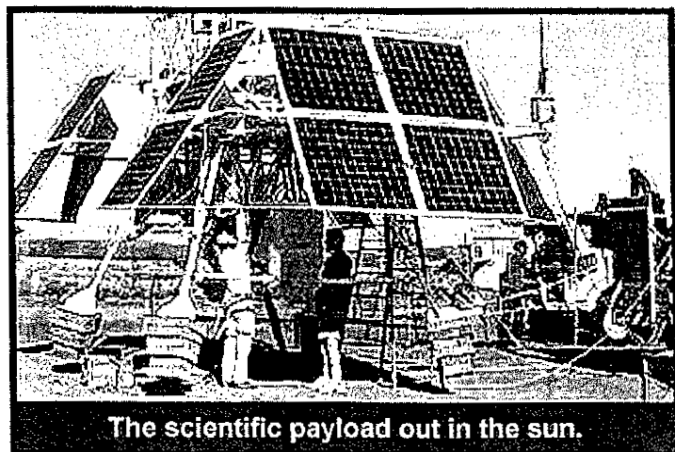
NASA RUNS TRIALS ON GIANT ATMOSPHERIC BALLOONS

A giant balloon which scientists hope will usher in a new age of near space research has been forced back to Earth just hours after taking off from Australia. The balloon sprang a leak and had to be landed by remote control about 250 kilometres (150 miles) from the launch site at Alice Springs.

The mishap is the latest problem for the Nasa project to circumnavigate the world and study near space after weeks of delays caused by bad weather. Nasa officials said they did not know the cause of the leak or the extent of any damage to the balloon, which was carrying a payload of scientific instruments.

"It developed a leak," said Nasa's Garry Woods. "That's about all we know at this stage. It could be something trivial, it could be something important." A Nasa team has been sent to Alice Springs to recover the balloon and investigate the cause of the leak.

This first flight was intended to circumnavigate the globe over two weeks, passing over southern Africa and South America before returning to Australia, collecting data for a cosmic radiation experiment. Nasa hopes the balloons could be a cheap alternative to satellites for research, with flights lasting up to 100 days. The pumpkin-shaped Ultra-Long-Duration Balloon is designed to inflate gradually to the size of a football field as it approaches the edge of Earth's atmosphere.

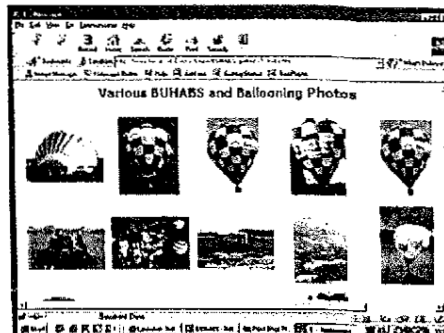
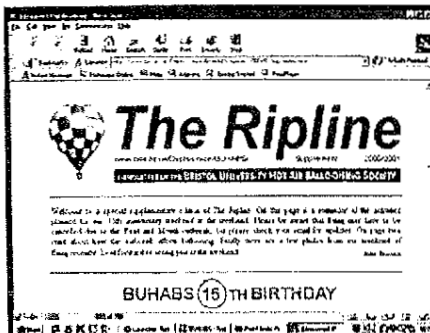
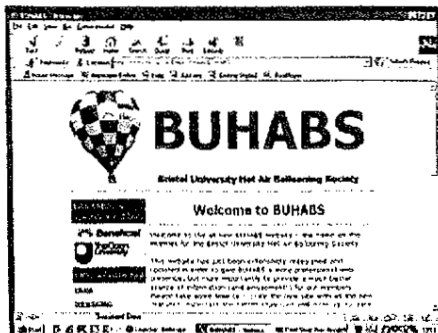


The scientific payload out in the sun.

The balloon is the largest single-cell, fully sealed balloon ever flown, with a fully inflated diameter of 58.5 metres (193 feet) and height of 35 metres (115 feet) (i.e. very big). It is intended to travel at an altitude of 35 kilometres (20 miles) (i.e. very high), three to four times higher than passenger aircraft fly. The balloon would almost scrape the edge of space, riding above all but 1% of the Earth's atmosphere.

BUHABS WEBSITE OVERHAULED

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/Depts/Union/BUHABS>



Big Bird was hard at work last term and over Easter overhauling the BUHABS website. The screengrabs above give some idea of the fantastic job he has done. The site is full of information for members, including details of how and where to sign up. As well as this you can now read The Ripline online, and the gallery has also been updated- as well as all the old favourites there are all the photos from recent flying and our fifteenth anniversary dinner.

BUHABS AGM WEDNESDAY 07 MARCH 2001

BUHABS AGM this year was cleverly timed to be in the Epi at the same time as the union election results were being announced. However, we still managed to hold the meeting undisturbed and efficiently. This year we welcome a new member to the committee, Sarah Nolan, as Union Treasurer. Sarah is studying for a Phd in Astrophysics, so should be able to give you all your star sign predictions. We also say goodbye to Tim Locke as our current Treasurer. Mr Locke is graduating this year and we wish him the best of luck in his future career. The editor of The Ripline is also standing down this year, and the position is still open. Anyone who is interested in the post should email Simon at the address below.

YOUR ELECTED COMMITTEE FOR 2001/2002

SIMON JENKINS

PRESIDENT

SARAH NOLAN

UNION TREASURER

PETER DAVIES

SECRETARY

ED KAY

SOCIAL SECRETARY AND WEBSITE EDITOR

SIMON CHURCH

TRANSPORT OFFICER



TIM



ED

ON THE PULL WITH THE BUHABS BOYS

Manning the Crown line during a balloon inflation is an important and arduous task. Just for you ladies, here is a few of BUHABS finest young men on the pull. My sister says it's the helmets that do it for her.



JOHN



IAIN

THE PRESIDENTS REPORT 2000/2001

This meeting marks the end of my year as President and what an exciting year we've had. The society and its members have been involved in another 12 months of wide and varied ballooning activities. Not only did we manage numerous flights over Bristol and Bath but were also involved in many events around the UK and abroad. Back in April last year we were at the Radio One, One Big Sunday event on the downs tethering the Fiesta balloon. May saw the Bath Balloon Fiesta and my first hands on flying at a Fiesta event with a crowded city centre launch.

At a very rainy WRBBAC flyout from Badminton in June saw B5 playing chicken with a lorry and a precision demonstration landing on the grass verge of the A46. BUHABS 3 came into action again for a tether at the Wills Ball, which is now seems to be a regular event for us. In June Lee passed his group B check out and did his first hanglider drop over Bath with Scott and Terry filming. I think we made it on BBC Points West that same evening. BUHABS entered the Usk Balloon meet in Wales and completed a short flight but unfortunately missed the opportunity to cross the Severn. Maybe we'll get the chance next year...

This years summer holiday was spent in Todi, Italy in the company of Bath University with light and variable winds and an average of nearly 2 flights per day. At the same time Tim was busy flying over Bristol during the nicest two weeks of the year. At the end of July came the 'Adventure sports weekend' which was apparently very extreme. Too extreme to go flying in fact and so there was plenty of opportunities to check out the radical skateboarders. Tim tells me the most notable memory was when the local fire brigade turned up thinking the showground was on fire!

The Bristol Balloon Fiesta in August was a huge success with Lee as flight director and Pete as his tea boy. BUHABS members continue to get involved with this event and help to make it a success. The weekend was, however, not so good for the BUHABS van which returned with a dent the size and shape of an old dear. (10 points to the driver!)

Northampton Balloon Fiesta was our sponsors' main event and we managed to get some guests flown for Beneficial Bank although the weather was not at its best. Lee's correct decision not to fly shows you can never be too careful and should never listen to flight directors! Which begs the question does he listen to

himself? Any balloons that did take off landed pretty quickly when it started thundering! BUHABS entered the British Nationals for the first time in August and had a lot of fun flying the Fiesta balloon in challenging weather and expert company. We failed miserably to obtain the wooden spoon but were cheered by the sight of Lee Hooper written above Paul Spellward on one occasion. Watch out Paul...

Fresh saw us sign up nearly 100 members including 15 from UWE. Several UWEHABS members have now flown and I hope the partnership with BUHABS will be successful over the coming year. I'm sure Pete will ensure its continuing success in the future.

BUHABS always has a difficult time with Socials but looking back, this year has been pretty successful. The introductory evening was very well attended at the beginning of term. Since October we have been ten-pin bowling, visited the Imax cinema, had a Christmas curry (again very well attended), a joint quiz with the Explorers society and an anniversary dinner to come this weekend. I would like to thank John for organising these events and producing an excellent but sometimes bizarre Ripline magazine.

We seem to have had a fairly poor winter in terms of flying but looking in my logbook has shown that between October and March last year I did eight flights (Tim did a few too). This year I have flown six times and Tim has flown two or three. (One of which involved a close encounter with a barbed wire fence and won't be mentioned). So this winter has not been too bad and could certainly have been a lot worse.

As well as flying activities this year BUHABS members helped to modify our gas compound up at Coombe Dingle. After labouring to dig two huge holes in the ground, we shovelled and levelled several cubic meters worth of readymix concrete using an odd assortment of bent shovels and spades. As a result, we have managed to move the gas tank about 1 metre further away from the nearest building and so the safety office are now happier. The second concrete plinth now holds the 'BUHABS Shed'. One of Argos' finest (and cheapest) prefabricated tin box kits. I hope it provides many years service, doesn't leak too badly and doesn't blow away in the wind. Please don't cough too loudly when helping to refuel! By extraordinary luck it is colour coordinated with

the gas tank. Mushy pea green. Mmmmm, nice.

So in summary, I would like to thank the committee, drivers, pilots and members: In particular, Paul, Lee and Tim for keeping us up in the air; Simon for keeping us on the road; Pete for making sure we get the minutes; Tim Locke for dealing with the money; John for his efforts with The Ripline; And Ed for the new Website. Also Robin, Tom and Jeremy and other friends of BUHABS for their continued support.

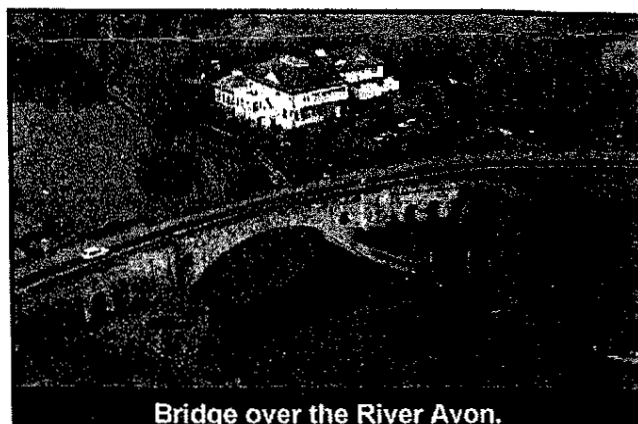
In the end it is the members who make the society the success it is today. I think it's fair to say everyone gets more out the more they put in. Let's hope the society goes from strength to strength in 2001/02...



Simon Jenkins
BUHABS President



Tom Ellenreider overtakes B5 at 3 Mph.



Bridge over the River Avon.

FLIGHT REVIEW

SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2001

This was the final flight from Bath during our weekend of flying back in February. It was a calm flight in misty skies, and just a little nippy. We were excellently piloted by Mr Dudman, whose challenge was to find some wind, something we seemed to lack. Nevertheless, in our two mile flight we managed to float over a scrap yard, nearly landed in a puddle, were overtaken by Tom Ellenreider and flew over a weir and a sewage farm. The carry out was then an event in itself. We landed in the top of a field and 'hopped' the balloon down to the bottom before deflating. Even with the farmers help, this took some time, and only to find the exit we thought we could use was a hidden boggy river thing. Consequently B5 had another experience with a barbed wire fence, albeit one covered in a blanket, before we managed to head off to Maccy Daccy's. Finally, I'm still waiting to see which pedal exactly is the accelerator.

John Burnett



Sewage Farm near landing site.



Scrap yard near railway field.

TOM LICKE'S DODGY PIC'S

<http://members.tripod.com/~spows/cow.html>

THINGS TO DO FOR £12 INSTEAD OF BALLOONING

With the current Foot and Mouth crisis, I thought it might be good to share a few ideas of things you could do instead of ballooning. There is plenty of stuff around the Bristol area to keep one busy, especially if you have £12 you would have otherwise spent on a balloon flight. Let's hope we can get into the skies again fairly soon.

1) SPEND THE DAY EXPLORING CARDIFF

A return bus fare to Cardiff costs just £6, and there are regular departures. Once in Cardiff there is plenty to entertain; as well as shops there is the castle (see picture), museum, Millenium stadium and dock side area. You may have to contend with the odd Welsh person though. Hmm, I wonder if I will get an Anne Robinson style backlash for that comment.



2) GO TO THE SEASIDE

A return fare to Weston-super-Mare will cost you £3.70, and for that you will get to experience one of the most delightful seaside destinations the country has to offer. Wander down the pier. Ride one of the famous donkeys. Take a swim at the Tropicana centre. Be scared by weird fish in the Sealife centre. Peruse the shops in the Sovereign centre. There is even a cinema if the weather turns. Weston is only 45 minutes away on the bus from the bus station, so is ideal for the day or even afternoon.

3) TAKE A HISTORICAL WANDER AROUND BRISTOL

There are plenty of historical attractions available in Bristol. Bimble down to the docks and you will find the S.S. Great Britain in dry dock, the Industrial Museum and St Mary Redcliffe church. The church is definitely worth a visit, and some might say more spectacular than the cathedral. You could even go into the city museum. Its right next to the Wills building and free to get into, but how many of you have actually had a look around?

4) REVISE FOR EXAMS

Pop into Alldays and spend £12 on a variety of chocolate bars. Then spend the weekend revising for all those exams. Or, you could go down the pub and spend £12 on beer. Hmm, which one do you choose...

5) WRITE OUT YOUR FLATMATE'S COURSEWORK

This is intended to be more of a money maker than spender. During the morning you intended to go ballooning, offer to type up your friend's coursework for a small fee. Whoever it is is likely to be very hungover, and will agree to anything. I would suggest charging about £25 for every 1000 words.

6) STUDY ADVANCED CEREAL MECHANICS

Nothing to do with the Phd of our President, rather an experiment into the tastes of cereal combinations. Go into Somerfield before breakfast next Saturday and spend £12 on cereal. You may be lucky and get some B.O.G.O.F.s. Then, go home and spend the morning experimenting with different combinations. I've included a photo of my small collection for inspiration.



7) BAKE A CAKE (OR SEVERAL CAKES)

I reckon you should be able to bake about three cakes for £12, provided you owned a recipe book. You dont have to go for the full-on gateau, sponge cake is very easy and can be done in the microwave.

8) CLEAN YOUR FLAT

Hmm, on reflection, maybe not. Most of the mess is your flatmates anyway isn't it?

BUHABS 15TH BIRTHDAY



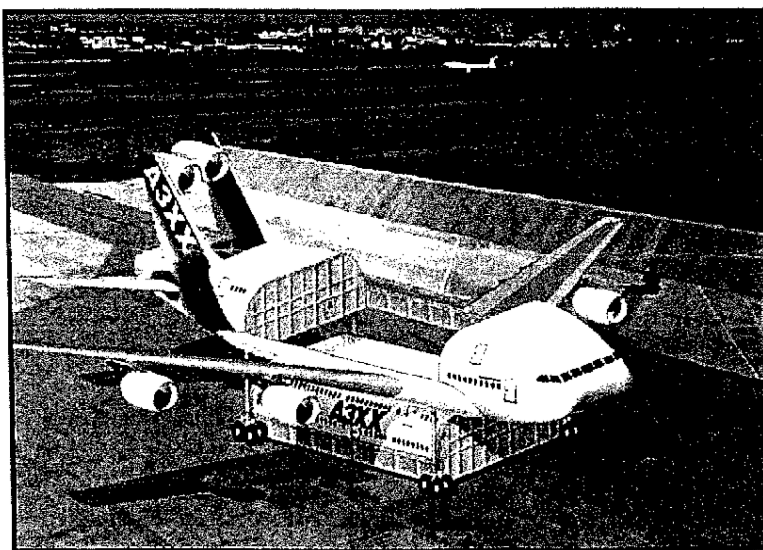
Unfortunately, due to the Foot and Mouth restrictions and bad weather we were unable to hold any ballooning activities during our anniversary weekend. However, we were still able to have a great time at The Muset on the Saturday evening. Nearly forty people were in attendance, including many ex-members and Loughborough University Hot Air Balloon Club. Those who managed to stir themselves the following morning met for breakfast at Brunels Buttery on the docks. We still hope to hold the tether some time during this term. Everyone is invited to see all five BUHABS balloons inflated, check your email for details as it may be held at short notice.



SPECIAL RETRIEVAL

EMAIL OUR OPERATIVES ON:

This month our operatives have unearthed photographs showing evidence that 'International Rescue' are investing in Airbus A3XX technology. This picture clearly shows an upgraded Thunderbird 2, including the trademark Airbus Lozenge. Apparently Brains is soon to announce why they need two Trent engines on the tail plane, and how those tiny wings are going to lift that big body.



If you have any comments, queries, or quarrels with The Ripline (or if you feel like flexing your literary talents and writing an article yourself!) please don't hesitate to email me (John Burnett) at the following address: [REDACTED]